

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

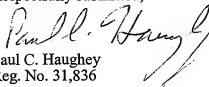
Claims 8 and 9 are pending in this application. Claim 9 has been allowed. Claim 8 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 1-7 and 10-12 have been rejected. Claims 1-7 and 10-12 have been canceled.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,


Paul C. Haughey
Reg. No. 31,836

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300
Attachments
PCH:rgy
60986254 v1